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SOURCE Nan-fang Jih-pao.

WATER CONSERVATION AND FLOOD CONTROL  
PROJECTS MAKE PROGRESS

DISCUSSES PROGRESS OF KIANGSU WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT -- Canton Nan-fang  
 Jih-pao, 18 Jun 50

Shanghai, 17 June (Hsin-hua) -- A large-scale, spring, water-conservation project in northern Kiangsu province was completed in June. The work, other than completion of the first phase of the Yi Chiang conservation project, included reinforcing and repairing the banks of the Yangtze River and the Grand Canal, and dredging various rivers and creeks. It took about a million people to complete 54,700,000 cubic meters of earthwork and 400,000 cubic meters of stone work.

The completion of this water conservation project not only protects 5,500,000 mou of rice fields and more than 2 million mou of cotton fields from floods in northern Kiangsu but also increases cotton acreage in that area by 940,000 mou. About 22 million mou of farmland along the Grand Canal and the Yangtze River were also relieved from flood danger as a result of the work. The Central People's government, having combined the work of water conservation with famine relief measures in that area, used a total of 245,600,000 catties of rice for workers' food and wages, and thereby saved the men and about 2 million of their dependents from starvation.

The repairs on the 500-li [one li equals 1/3 mile] retaining wall along the seacoast, from Lien-yun south to Chiao-hsieh in Hai-an Hsien (a newly established hsien in the northern portion of Tung-tai Hsien), were completed during March, April, and the first part of May. During the same period, 14 kilometers of the Mao-yu Chiang bottom was dredged, and 900 li of the Yangtze River banks, and 600 li of the Grand Canal banks were also repaired.

Other water conservation projects also completed included: the dredging of 42 creeks in Nan-t'ung Special District; construction of 436 drainage creeks, 4,490 drainage ditches; and repairing of river dikes in Ch'i-tung and Hai-men Hsiens. The dredging of Wu-t'u Chiang in Kuan-yun Hsien in Huai-yin Special District, and 80 li of the drainage creek from Shu-yang east to Yen Chiang, were also completed.

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FIRST PHASE YI CHIANG CONSERVATION PROJECT COMPLETED -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 18 Jun 50

Shanghai, 17 June (Hsin-hua) -- The first phase of the Yi Chiang conservation project was completed on 10 June as scheduled. A total of 570,000 civilian workers, 5,000 government officials, and 300 engineers participated in the project.

The Yi Chiang conservation project was begun in November 1949. The purpose of this project is to change the present course of the Yi Chiang by building 5 to 11-meter-high and 190-kilometer-long banks from T'ung-tsui, in Hsin-an Hsien, east to near the mouth of the Kuan Chiang, to empty its flood waters directly into the sea. There are three large rivers in this area, the Yi, the Shu, and the Ssu, which originate in the nearby mountains and carry large volumes of water into the lowlands during the flood season. According to statistics, the volume of flood water in the upper reaches of these three rivers sometimes amounts to 11,000 cubic meters per second. The lower reaches can accommodate only 1,500 cubic meters per second. Furthermore, the Yi Chiang, as it empties into the Grand Canal, is the cause of constant floods along the canal. When the present project is completed, the Yi Chiang will be able to accommodate up to 4,000 cubic meters of water per second.

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